

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the final Office Action dated March 9, 2009 and provide the following response thereto. In this amendment, claims 1, 11 and 16 are amended. Claims 23 and 24 are new. No new matter has been added. Claims 6 and 15 were previously cancelled and claim 22 is currently cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 7-14, 16-21 and 23-24 are presented for consideration.

In the final Office Action, claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16-18 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,115,616 (hereinafter "Halperin") and further in view of US Patent No. 7,042,334 (hereinafter "Mosgrove").

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a key pad assembly that includes a top cover placed over a stack of keypad components, a bottom cover placed under the stack, the top cover and the bottom defining a common perimeter and ***"an over molded portion that extends around the perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit."***

Independent claim 11 recites a method of fabricating a self contained key pad that includes sandwiching a plurality of key pad components between a top cover and a bottom cover, the top cover and bottom cover defining a common perimeter, and ***"inserting molding around the perimeter for encapsulating the top cover and the bottom cover."***

Independent claim 16 recites a self contained key pad that includes a top cover and a bottom cover that ***"define a common boundary around the stack, the common boundary over molded to encapsulate the stack between the bottom cover and the top cover."***

Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of Halperin and Mosgrove does not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations set for in independent claims 1, 11 and 16. For example, independent claim 1 recites an "over molded portion that extends around the perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit."

The Office Action states on page 3 that Halperin teaches a key pad assembly having "the top cover and the bottom cover over molded around the stack to form a self contained key pad unit (keyboard cart 16 – figure 1, col. 2 lines 35-41)." Applicants

respectfully disagree. While Halperin discloses a keyboard card 16 detached from the main body 10, there is no disclosure of having an "over molded portion that extends around the perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit." Mosgrove does not cure this deficiency.

Claims 4 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Halperin and Mosgrove and further in view of US Patent No. 6,950,680 (hereinafter "Kela"). Kela discloses various components of a keyboard, but does not disclose or teach the feature of an "over molded portion that extends around the perimeter to form a self contained key pad unit."

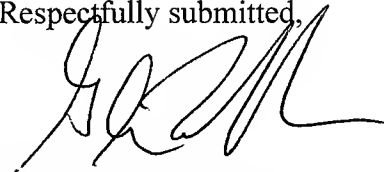
For the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 16 are allowable over the combination of Haperin and Mosgrove. Dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-14, and 17-21 depend from, and include all the limitations of their respective independent claims, which is shown to be allowable for the reasons given above. Further Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-14 and 17-21 define additional patentable subject matter in their own right. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of 1-3, 5, 11, 12, 14, 16-18 and 20-21 under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn for at least these reasons.

New claim 23 describes the key pad assembly of claim 1 further comprising an identification component that automatically identifies the key pad to a device that hosts the self contained key pad assembly. New claim 24 describes the self contained key pad of claim 16 further comprising an identification component that automatically identifies the self contained key pad to a device that hosts the self contained key pad. Support of these features can be found on page 4, ¶ 0038 of the Specification.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Such action is earnestly solicited by the Applicant. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or suggestions, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney or agent at the telephone number indicated below.

Please charge any fees that may be due to Deposit Account 502117, Motorola,
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Respectfully submitted,



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